



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

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KRISTA LEE EVANS, Research Analyst  
JOE KOLMAN, Research Analyst  
CYNTHIA PETERSON, Secretary  
TODD EVERTS, Legislative Environmental Analyst

## MINUTES

Date: May 24, 2005

State Capitol Building  
Helena, Montana

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Committee tapes are on file in the offices of the Legislative Environmental Policy Office.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

REP. DEBBY BARRETT, Co-Chairman  
REP. CHRISTOPHER HARRIS, Co-Chairman  
SEN. LANE LARSON, Vice Co-Chairman  
REP. WALTER MCNUTT, Vice Co-Chairman

### **STAFF PRESENT**

KRISTA LEE EVANS, Research Analyst  
JOE KOLMAN, Research Analyst  
CYNTHIA PETERSON, Secretary  
TODD EVERTS, Legislative Environmental Analyst

### **Discussion Regarding Appointment of Public Members to HB 790 Subcommittee**

Rep. Harris commented about the selection of HB Subcommittee members and agreed with Sen. Wheat's recommendations. Rep. Harris commented that he trusts Sen. Wheat's judgment.

Rep. McNutt expressed concern about the lack of representation from Northern Montana and believed the proposed Subcommittee is under-balanced. Rep. McNutt identified HB 790 as broader than the coal bed methane issue. Rep. McNutt suggested the HB 790 Subcommittee overlooked the oil and gas split estate problem. Rep. McNutt recommended replacing Lila Taylor with Rick Ripley since Mr. Ripley owns land with and without minerals.

Rep. Barrett commented on the proposed Subcommittee members and believed the recommendation lacks in representation from Northern and Western Montana, as well as the split estate oil and gas industry. Rep. Barrett agreed with Rep. McNutt's recommendation, and also suggested replacing one member with Sen. Glenn Roush.

Sen. Larson commented split estates are part of every proposed member's realm of interests and believed that it is included in the selection.

Rep. McNutt commented that through his experience on interim committees, legislators are needed in the process. Rep. McNutt thought it would be helpful to have another legislator.

Rep. Harris disagreed because HB 790 was carefully designed to include members from specific segments of the public and already includes legislators.

Rep. Barrett commented that HB 790 does not preclude adding more legislators.

Sen. Larson noted Connie Iverson is from Culbertson. Rep. Larson would like to accept recommendations as presented by the subcommittee.

Rep. Harris stated he liked the current balance, but Rep. Barrett disagreed stating the proposed selection was not balanced.

Mr. McRae reminded the members that Lila Taylor is a former legislator.

**RECESS**